

Senate File 47 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 47

BY FEENSTRA

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the school start date, establishing a school
2 end date, and eliminating the department of education's
3 authority to approve requests to waive the school start
4 date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 257.17, Code 2015, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 **257.17 Aid reduction for early school starts.**

4 State aid payments made pursuant to section 257.16 for a
5 fiscal year shall be reduced by one one-hundred-eightieth for
6 each day of that fiscal year for which the school district
7 begins school before the earliest starting date specified in
8 section 279.10, subsection 1. However, this section does
9 not apply to a school district or attendance center that has
10 ~~received approval from the director of the department of~~
11 ~~education under section 279.10, subsection 4, to commence~~
12 ~~classes for regularly established elementary and secondary~~
13 ~~schools in advance of the starting date established in is~~
14 maintaining a year-round three semester school calendar as
15 provided in section 279.10, subsection 1.

16 Sec. 2. Section 279.10, subsection 1, Code 2015, is amended
17 to read as follows:

18 1. a. The school year for each school district and
19 accredited nonpublic school shall begin on July 1 and each
20 regularly established elementary and secondary school shall
21 begin its school calendar no sooner than a day during the
22 ~~calendar week in which the first day of September falls but no~~
23 ~~later than the first Monday in December~~ August 15 and end its
24 school calendar no later than June 15. ~~However, if the first~~
25 ~~day of September falls on a Sunday, school may begin on a day~~
26 ~~during the calendar week which immediately precedes the first~~
27 ~~day of September.~~ A school district or school maintaining a
28 year-round three semester school calendar is exempt from the
29 start and end date requirements of this subsection.

30 b. The school calendar shall include not less than one
31 hundred eighty days, except as provided in subsection 3, or one
32 thousand eighty hours of instruction during the calendar year.

33 c. The board of directors of a school district and the
34 authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school shall
35 set the number of days or hours of required attendance for the

1 school year as provided in section 299.1, subsection 2, but the
2 board of directors of a school district shall hold a public
3 hearing on any proposed school calendar prior to adopting the
4 school calendar.

5 d. If the board of directors of a district or the
6 authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school extends
7 the school calendar because inclement weather caused the school
8 district or accredited nonpublic school to temporarily close
9 during the regular school calendar, the school district or
10 accredited nonpublic school may excuse a graduating senior who
11 has met district or school requirements for graduation from
12 attendance during the extended school calendar.

13 e. A school corporation may begin employment of personnel
14 for in-service training and development purposes before the
15 date to begin the elementary and secondary school calendar
16 established pursuant to paragraph "a".

17 Sec. 3. Section 279.10, subsection 4, Code 2015, is amended
18 by striking the subsection.

19 EXPLANATION

20 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
21 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

22 This bill establishes August 15 as the earliest date by
23 which a school district or accredited nonpublic school may
24 begin its school calendar, establishes June 15 as the date
25 by which the school calendar must end, and eliminates the
26 department of education's authority to approve requests to
27 waive the school start date. School districts and schools
28 maintaining a year-round three semester school calendar are
29 exempt from the start and end date requirements and from the
30 penalty established in Code section 257.17 to reduce the state
31 aid payments for a fiscal year by 1/180th for each day of that
32 fiscal year for which a school district begins school before
33 the earliest starting date.